

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a camera connectable to a network, the method comprising:
  - enabling the camera to function as a unique instant messenger client for an instant messenger service by registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the camera, and programming the unique login into the camera; and
  - receiving messages from the camera over the network via the instant messenger service;
  - whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client, and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service;
  - sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger service; and
  - converting said messages into commands for said camera.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - pre-defining at least one pre-existing user of the instant messenger service with whom the camera is allowed to communicate.
4. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger service.
5. (previously amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
  - pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the camera, and at least one action to be taken by the camera upon receiving the message.

6. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages received from the camera over the network via the instant messenger service are initiated by the camera in response to a pre-specified criterion being satisfied.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the camera is a webcam.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the webcam initiates sending a message over the network via the instant messenger service when the webcam detects motion.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a camera using an instant messenger service, the method comprising:

enabling the camera to function as an instant messenger client for the instant messenger service by registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the camera;

connecting the camera to a network;

receiving messages from the camera over the network over the instant messenger service; and

sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger service;

whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client, and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service so that direct communication with the camera through the instant messenger service is possible.

11. (previously amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the camera, and at least one action to be taken by the camera upon receiving the message.

1                   12.     (previously amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the messages  
2 received from the camera over the network are initiated by the camera in response to a pre-  
3 specified criterion being satisfied.

1                   13.     (currently amended) A camera enabled to function as a unique instant  
2 messenger user over a network, the camera comprising:  
3                   an autonomous IM application module, which identifies the camera as a unique  
4 instant messenger user to an instant messenger service; and  
5                   a network interface coupled to the autonomous IM application module, to connect  
6 to the network to communicate with at least one other instant messenger user over the instant  
7 messenger service;  
8                   whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client,  
9 and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service so that direct communication with the  
10 camera through the instant messenger service is possible.

1                   14.     (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the autonomous  
2 imaging module initiates communication with the at least one other instant messenger user.

1                   15.     (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is a  
2 webcam.

1                   16.     (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is  
2 compliant with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

1                   17.     (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is  
2 compliant with a SIP for Instant Messaging Presence Leveraging Extension protocol (SIMPLE).

1                   18.     (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, further comprising:  
2                   a predefined instructions module coupled to the autonomous IM application, to  
3 instruct the camera regarding interpreting instant messages received from the at least one other  
4 instant messenger user.